



Report of:	Meeting	Date
The prospective Leader of the Council, Councillor Michael Vincent and the Chief Executive, Rebecca Huddleston	Annual Council	18 May 2023

Appointments to Committees, Panels and Groups 2023/24

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To enable Members to be appointed to the Council's non-executive Committees and other panels and groups for the 2023/24 Council Year.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1** Effective arrangements to carry out the Council's non-executive decision making and advisory functions.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** That Committees be established and that Members be appointed to them in accordance with the statutory political balance rules described in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.2 of this report.
- 3.2** That other Panels and Groups also be established and that Members be appointed to them, as set out in paragraphs 5.7 to 5.9 of this report.
- 3.3** That the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel be reappointed as a Joint Committee of all 15 Councils in the Lancashire Police Force area and that Cllr Berry be nominated as Wyre's representative on it.

4. Background

- 4.1** The Council Procedure Rules in Part 4.01 of the Constitution requires that, at the Annual Meeting, the Council meeting will:
- (i) decide which Committees to establish for the Municipal Year;
 - (ii) decide the size and terms of reference for those Committees;

- (iii) decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules;
- (iv) receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and outside body

4.2 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act requires that the allocation of places on non-executive Committees of the Council be allocated on the following criteria:

- (a) that not all seats on a body are allocated to the same Political Group;
- (b) that the majority of seats on a body is allocated to a particular Political Group, if the number of persons belonging to that Group is the majority of the Authority's membership;
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary Committees of a relevant Authority which are allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that Authority;
- (d) subject to paragraphs (a) - (c) above, that the number of seats on a body which are allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the number of all seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that Group in membership of the Authority

4.3 Following the elections on 4 May 2023 the political composition of the Council is:

Conservative	30 members
Labour	15 members
Wyre Independents	3 members

There are currently two vacancies in Warren Ward, with an election to be held on Thursday 22 June 2023.

4.4 There are a total of 60 seats available on the Committees appointed by the Council. The application of the calculations in paragraph 4.2 leads to an overall allocation of 37 seats to the Conservative Group, 19 seats to the Labour Group and 4 seats to the Wyre Independents Group.

4.5 In order to meet, as closely as possible, the political balance requirements on **each committee** (as set out in Section 5(d) of the 1989 Act), as well as the proportion of the total seats on all committees (set out in Section 15c of the 1989 Act), it is proposed that places be allocated on committees as show in the table in paragraph 5.2 below.

5. Key issues and proposals

(a) Committees

- 5.1** It is proposed that the committees listed in Appendix 1 be appointed.
- 5.2** It is proposed that an Audit and Standards Committee be appointed, the terms of reference for which are detailed in Article 7 of the Constitution.
- 5.3** It is proposed that two external Independent Members be appointed to the Audit & Standards Committee, when recruited, to add additional experience, expertise and objectivity to the Committee. A further report will be submitted to Council when such an appointments are to be proposed.
- 5.4** The Terms of Reference of the Senior Officer Appointments Committee are not currently set out in the Articles, but its sole purpose is to make recommendations to the Council, should any vacancies occur, on the appointment of a Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer or Section 151 Officer for which a formal resolution of the full Council is required. Similarly the role of the Senior Officer's Disciplinary Committee is to be involved at the appropriate stage in the process of any disciplinary action against any of the three statutory officers referred to above
- 5.5** The application of the political balance rules to these committees provides for the allocation of seats as follows:

	Con	Lab	Ind
Audit & Standards Committee (12)	7	4	1
Licensing Committee (12)	7	4	1
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12)	7	4	1
Planning Committee (12)	7	4	1
Employment & Appeals Committee (4)	3	1	0
Senior Officers Appointments Committee (4)	3	1	0
Senior Officers Disciplinary Committee (4)	3	1	0
	37	19	4

- 5.6** An updated version of Appendix 1, listing the full list of nominations submitted by each of the political groups, in accordance with the political balance rules, will be published on the website and circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

(b) Other Panels and Groups

- 5.7** The statutory political balance rules relating to the allocation of places on committees do not have to be applied to panels and groups, although, the proposed allocations in this report do comply with those rules. It is proposed that the Councillor Development Group, and the Planning

Policy Group be reappointed with the roles described below and with the membership set out in Appendix 2.

5.8 Councillor Development Group

The Councillor Development Group comprises a Cabinet Member and up to 12 other Councillors. Its role is to liaise with all Councillors and to work closely with the relevant officers to promote the aims and facilitate the efficient delivery of a comprehensive and effective Councillor development programme. The proposed composition of the Group is set out in Appendix 2.

5.9 Planning Policy Group

The Planning Policy Group is a Member group that has worked closely with the Council's officers over a lengthy period of time to develop and review matters of planning policy and, specifically, the Local Plan. The Group has no delegated decision making powers but can contribute to the formulation of proposals included in documents submitted to either the Cabinet or Full Council, as appropriate for decision.

(c) Lancashire Police and Crime Panel

- 5.10** The Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire is a formal Joint Committee of the 15 local authorities for the Lancashire Police Force area, established under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Its composition, terms of reference and procedure rules are set out in Part 3.04 of the Council's constitution. Each Council in Lancashire is entitled to appoint one member to the Panel. Since 2015, the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder has been appointed as Wyre's representative. The Secretary to the Panel, currently an officer at Blackburn with Darwen Council, will have to make arrangements, in consultation with the Leaders and Chief Executives of all the member authorities to ensure that the political balance requirements are met, which could possibly mean Wyre being invited to nominate a second representative.

(d) Economic Prosperity Board

- 5.11** The Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) comprises Blackpool Council, Fylde Borough Council and Wyre Council (the "constituent authorities") and three co-opted members, one from each constituent area. The purpose of the EPB is to bring together local authority partners in a robust, formally constituted arrangement which will help shape and drive economic development across the Fylde Coast.
- 5.12** Membership of the EPB consists of one member from each constituent authority, that member to be the Leader of the Council or other executive member in an authority operating executive arrangements, as detailed in the Council's constitution, Part 3.04.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	The proposals in this report are in accordance with legal requirements, as set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection

None		
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List of appendices

Appendix 1: Nominations for membership Committees for 2023/24.

Appendix 2: Nominations for membership of Panels and Groups for 2023/24.

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2023/24

(Membership of these Committees has to be politically balanced in accordance with the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989).

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (12)

Conservative (7)

Labour (4)

Wyre Independents (1)

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (12)

Conservative (7)

Labour (4)

Wyre Independents (1)

PLANNING COMMITTEE (12)

Conservative (7)

Labour Councillors (4)

Wyre Independents (1)

LICENSING COMMITTEE (12)

Conservative (7)

Labour (4)

Wyre Independents (1)

EMPLOYMENT AND APPEALS COMMITTEE (4)

Conservative (3)

Labour (1)

SENIOR OFFICERS APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (4)

Conservative (3)

Labour (1)

SENIOR OFFICERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (4)

Conservative (3)

Labour (1)

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF PANELS AND GROUPS 2023/24

(Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, relating to political balance arrangements, does not have to be applied to these Panels and Groups).

COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT GROUP (12) + 1 Cabinet Member

A Cabinet Member

Conservative (7)

Labour (4)

Wyre Independents (1)

PLANNING POLICY GROUP (12)

Conservative (5)

Labour (4)

Wyre Independents (1)

plus

The Chairman of the Planning
Committee

Vice-Chairman of the Planning
Committee

The Planning Policy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder to attend when invited for a particular issue.